

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-14

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NESCO

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TAGS: AORG, APER, UNESCO (M'BOW, A.)

SUBJECT: FURTHER BACKGROUND ON DG SUCCESSION AT UNESCO

REF: PARIS 18567

1. FOLLOWING UP ON CONVERSATION WITH UK DEP PERM REP BIRREL OF JULY 6 (SEE REFTTEL), ACTING PERM REP CALLED ON TAKIK SAID, TUNISIAN PERM REP AND PRESIDENT, UNESCO ARAB GROUP, AND VICE PRESIDENT OF BOTH AFRICAN GROUP AND GROUP OF 77, MORNING OF JULY 9 TO DISCUSS STATUS OF M'BOW CANDIDACY FOR DG SUCCESSION.

2. SAID REPORTED INTER ALIA, THAT ONLY GROUP THAT HAD THUS FAR INFORMALLY CONSIDERED M'BOW CANDIDACY WAS ARAB GROUP BUT THAT LATIN AMERICAN GROUP WOULD VERY LIKELY CONSIDER CANDIDACY QUESTION AT JULY 10 MEETING AND AFRICAN AND GROUP 77 GROUPS WOULD DISCUSS QUESTION PRIOR TO 93RD EXBD. SAID CONFIRMED THAT CONSENSUS OF ARAB GROUP WAS TO SUPPORT M'BOW. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT EGYPTIAN PERM REP NOT PRESENT AT MEETING AND THAT EGYPT AND ALGERIA HAD BOTH INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT MAHEU FOR ANOTHER TERM. HE WAS SANGUINE, HOWEVER, THAT IN VIEW OF NOW FORMALIZED M'BOW CANDIDACY ALL ARABS WOULD

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AGREE TO SUPPORT M'BOW.

3. SAID THEN ANALYZED M'BOW PROSPECTS AMONG AFRICANS AND GROUP OF 77. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH AFRICAN GROUP HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED MATTER, HE PERSONALLY HAD SOUNDED OUT MANY AFRICAN PERM REPS FROM BOTH ANGLO-PHONE AND FRANCOPHONE AFRICA AND FOUND ATMOSPHERE GENERALLY FAVORABLE FOR M'BOW. SOME OF ANGLOPHONE GROUP HAD BEEN RETICENT TO SUPPORT FRANCOPHONE M'BOW, BUT DEFINITELY HAD NO CLEAR CANDIDATE OF THEIR OWN AND IN SHOWDOWN THAT WILL COME WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SUPPORT AN AFRICAN FOR POST. IN SAID'S VIEW BALANCE OF ASIANS APPARENTLY HAVE NO CANDIDATE ON WHICH THEY AGREE (RAHNEMA OF IRAN IS A REPORTED CANDIDATE) AND LATIN AMERICANS NOT AGREED ON HERRERA (CHILE), BETTANCOURT-MEJIA (COLOMBIA) OR CUEVAS-CANCINO (MEXICO) AND MOST LIKELY WOULD ACQUIESCE IN AFRICAN CANDIDATE REALIZING LATIN AMERICA HAS ALREADY HAD DG POST ONCE--TORRES, (MEXICO)--AND IT IS NOW TURN OF AFRICAN, ARAB OR ASIAN GROUP TO HOLD POST.

4. EVALUATING POSITION AMONG WE/O GROUP, SAID SAID HE FELT FRENCH WOULD PROBABLY BE FAVORABLE BUT UK HAD RESERVATIONS. HE ASKED IF US WOULD SUPPORT. ACTING PERM REP SAID HE WAS SURE US WOULD NOT RPT NOT OPPOSE, BUT NATURE OF US SUPPORT NOT YET WORKED OUT. SAID FELT WE/O GROUP WOULD IN END SUPPORT M'BOW.

5. SAID CONTINUED THAT HE HAD HAD MORE THAN ONE DISCUSSION WITH DG HIMSELF RE SUCCESSION ISSUE. EARLIER THIS YEAR DG HAD INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO RUN AGAIN IF ADDITIONAL TIME NEEDED FOR ORGANIZATION TO FIND SUITABLE CANDIDATE, BUT THAT IN NO EVENT WOULD HE REMAIN IN POST FOR MORE THAN TWO MORE YEARS. NOW THAT M'BOW'S CANDIDACY CLEAR AND DG ADMITS M'BOW IS SUITABLE CANDIDATE, "HE KNOWS ORGANIZATION WELL AND IS GOOD EXECUTIVE", DG NOW NO LONGER USES THIS ISSUE. HE HAS NEW QUESTION: "HAVE YOU HEARD SOCIALIST CAMP WOULD LIKE SUBMIT CANDIDATE?" SAID SAID SOVS HAD FLOATED THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBILITY WITH HIM--AS IVANOV (USSR) DID WITH WARVARIV IN CONVERSATION LATTER HAD AT SOV DELEGATION JULY 6--BUT SAID HAD RESPONDED TO BOTH SOVS AND TO DG "SOCIALIST CAN'T WIN." ASKED WHY, SAID STRESSED THIRD WORLD WANTED DG POST THIS TIME AND WOULD NOT CEDE TO EUROPEAN, AMERICAN OR SOCIALIST, BE LATTER FROM USSR OR FROM EE COUNTRY. SAID CONCLUDED DG STILL WISHES TO RETAIN POST AND AS ONE

ARGUMENT FOR HIS CONTINUING IS DECIMATED BY EVENTS,
HE WILL FIND ANOTHER. ONLY OVERWHELMING CONSENSUS
FOR M'BOW AND STRONG AND VOCAL OPPOSITION TO HIS
CANDIDACY WILL FORCE MAHEU TO WITHDRAW. NOTHING
THAT WILL HAPPEN UP TO TIME 18TH GC, WILL KILL HIS
HOPEN HOWEVER.

6. ACTING PERM REP FEELS THAT SAID HAS OUTLINED
THOROUGH AND SOUND ANALYSIS OF CURRENT STATUS OF
DG SUCCESSION ISSUE AT UNESCO.
IRWIN

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